



# The Anchor



A Publication of Vaughan Baptist Church

Summer Issue

“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast...” Hebrews 6:19

July 2014

## From The Pastor’s Desk Pastor Bill Adams



There’s a lot that can influence what we do: music, styles (clothing, hair), media outlets, etc. In this issue I would like to address another strong influence upon

us and that is “the crowd.” We can be persuaded to do or not do something because of the numbers of people doing or not doing it. It takes a very strong, committed, dedicated disciple of Jesus Christ to do what they do solely because of personal, spiritual conviction. **“Don’t Let Numbers Count”** is the title of my article and I would like to briefly discuss three areas where the numbers can influence us.

### Doctrine

A few days ago a pastor called me and informed me he was starting a new ministry in our area and was looking for support. In asking what he believed, he informed me that his primary ministry would be salvation and that was the most important doctrine to him. Other doctrines were subservient to it and not as significant and thus he could accept varying beliefs about them.

Sadly, I see this perspective rapidly gaining control over the thinking of many Christians and churches. This prevailing opinion today has influenced many. They elevate salvation to a preeminent position and lessen other doctrines. Whether this is done to attract a wider audience (numbers) or just outright disregard of some Scriptures, I believe this “numbers”

mentality is a miscalculation. Those who view all doctrines as equally important are considered by many to have gone too far in their Christian practice. Being influenced by numbers in this way tends to lead to a sensitivity to those seeking and not a sensitivity to the Scriptures!

Man is never given the right to categorize, minimize or prioritize doctrines. Who is man to classify doctrines as mortal (grave, serious) and venial (less significant). Listen to the Scriptures, how that ALL truth is God’s truth: *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth”* (John 17:17); *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God”* (Matthew 4:4); *“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them”* (Rom.16:17); *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”* (2 Tim.3:16); *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have*

*commanded you”* (Matt.28:19-20). Note again what Jesus told His church: *“teaching them to observe ALL things,”* not, select a few that appeal to you or will enhance the attendance or win more souls.

We are living in a day when Christians are counting the numbers. They are influenced by what others are doing, especially when the majority is or is not doing it. When it comes to doctrine, the Scriptures say: *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”* (2 Tim.4:3-4). I believe, we are living in such a day. Let me encourage you Christian, turn your ears to the truth and don’t worry who is listening to it with you!

### Department

When it comes to how you live your life, your manners and behavior, don’t take a poll or survey what the crowd is doing. Don’t take the temperature of society and live accordingly. Whether it be what you wear or watch or your activities, associates, or attendance, live by a code of conduct that pre-eminently pleases the Lord not the crowd. Don’t let the numbers affect you. You be faithful to church services even if others are not. If you’re the only one or one of a few, do the right thing. Don’t count the numbers and



make a foolish decision based upon that. Exodus 23:2 says: *"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil."* Of wrong teaching and teachers, Peter said, *"And many shall follow their pernicious ways"* (2 Peter 2:2). The church at Corinth struggled with a variety of sins and sadly many in the church followed the wrong example of Christian living and Paul deduced: *"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep"* (1 Cor.11:30).

Christians live to follow and please One! Paul reminded his readers of this: *"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more"* (1 Thes.4:1); *"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier"* (2 Tim.2:4); *"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ"* (Gal.1:10). I would sum it up this way, *"Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"* (Prov.20:6). You be faithful to the Lord and the things of the Lord regardless of who else is doing it.

### Duty

Christian, when it comes to your ministry, do your duty and don't count the numbers. Whether you have one child in your Sunday school class or a hundred; whether you are only able to lead one soul to the Lord after thousands of doors were knocked on; whether no one else comes to a work day; you be faithful. When I was a member of my home church in New Jersey, my wife and I would come out on Tuesday evenings for soul winning and visitation. One of the men I led to the Lord started coming out to join us. After a few weeks, he said, "Where is everybody?" Like many churches, only a handful came out. This man was very discouraged at the turnout and he eventually quit coming. Sadly, as a young Christian, he was counting

the numbers. Paul addressed a similar situation in the church at Colosse and wrote to them about it: *"And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it"* (Colossians 4:17).

Our Lord set the example for us. After teaching some hard truths His disciples would have to adhere to, John records, *"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him"* (John 6:66). Jesus didn't run after them and say, "Hey guys, listen, I'll drop the higher standards and make it easier for you to be my disciple." Jesus knew it wasn't about the numbers of followers but the commitment of those who followed! For three and one half years, Jesus performed miracles and perfectly taught and preached God's word. But instead of the masses whom He had fed and the large crowds who had followed Him, only about 120 were truly committed to Him (Acts 1:1-15). But though the numbers were low, these dedicated disciples would "turn the world upside down" (Acts 17:6).

Always do the right thing. The numbers may not add up mathematically but they will spiritually. The Lord's adding machine is the Scriptures! Be willing to go it alone. Be careful about following the pack. Know when to count the numbers and when not to - because if you don't, you may be following the crowd and not the Lord.

## YOUTH CORNER

Pastor James Hird

### Pinpoint Focus - The Cause

*"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil."* Proverbs 4:25-27

In the last newsletter, I began a series about where our focus should be in our Christian lives. It is very difficult for Christians in this world to keep their focus where it should be. We need to pursue a sincere purpose, the purpose of our Lord and Saviour.

We have focused on the cross. We should glory in the cross. We need to obey the commands of the cross. In this article, I want to focus on the Cause. What is our cause as Christians? Why are we still here after we accept Christ as our Saviour?

Our cause should be the same as our Saviour's cause. Luke 19:10 says, *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."* We should have our focus on seeing souls saved. This is what we have been called as Christians to do. We ought to fulfill the Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:19-20, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."* This was the last command that Christ gave His disciples and it is the first command that we see them obeying in Acts chapter two. Our cause as Christians is to fulfill the Great Commission.

But just like the focus on the cross, we must do it in such a way as to bring glory to our Heavenly Father. If we use ignoble means to see people come to church, or we change what the Bible says so that we might bring more people to God, we are not bringing glory to God. Jude 1:4 says this, *"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."* If we, as Christians, profess to teach the Gospel of Christ, but deny the fundamental doctrines, how can we say that we are furthering the cause of Christ? We cannot if we deny what He teaches. This is why we

must keep our focus on what our cause as Christians is. It is to teach Christ and His doctrine. Christ and nothing else. Christ alone. As soon as we waver from this cause, we can find ourselves as the men who are described in Jude 1:4. We do not want to suffer the punishment that is found in II Peter 2:1, *“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”* Stay focused on the cause that has been given you.

## A Woman's Window

Mrs. Debbie Adams

### Rescue The Perishing

On one particular day during the last week of our Christian school we had an unusual visitor of the feathery kind. If you have guessed a bird, you are right. We heard him in the duct work near the heater vents from time to time. We tried to help the little fellow as best we could by removing the heater grates so he could find his way out. It wasn't as easy as that. This bird wasn't coming up. He was just wandering around. A "home-made" net was placed over the open vent holes to catch him. However, when he seemed to get close, he would be scared by the "net" and the "big people" looking down in the ducts. He'd barely peek out only to run back away from those trying to help him.

With the school day nearly done, most everyone went into the next room for one more activity. Staying behind, one

of our little second graders was finishing her own project. "Let's pray for the little bird," I said. "God will help him. We can't seem to help him." The student heartily agreed. "Dear God, help this little bird to find his way out. He doesn't belong in the heater ducts. He needs to be outside looking for a fat, juicy worm and he must be very hungry by now. Will you please help this little guy find his way out? In Jesus' name, Amen."

We continued to work and waited. We could hear his little tiny bird feet tapping along the ducts. The student continued to work on her paper. Suddenly, the tapping bird feet sounded closer. We turned to look in that direction. I whispered, "I think he's going to come out. Let's be very quiet and very still." We heard a scuffle and flapping. Swoosh, up came the little guy! He took one, two, three, four little hops and stopped. He looked longingly at one of the windows. He looked as though he would start toward it. Then, he turned his little head and seeing the front doors open and the outside world sweetly calling to him, up and away he flew with the wonderful guidance of his heavenly Father! "Look at that! God answered our prayer," I said to her. "He got the bird safely out of the ducts and outside where he belongs. And God let us be here to see it! How amazing! How good and kind God is!" She agreed and smiled with joy. What a blessing to watch!

God cares for our little feathery friends and He will surely care for us as well. The Scripture from Matthew 6:26 came to mind, *“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into*

*barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”* May we, as well, when trapped in life, rely upon our Heavenly Father to deliver us!

## Foundations In Education

Daniel Bousquet  
VBCA Principal

As discussed in the last Anchor edition, our desire is that, upon leaving VBCA, our students will be armoured, equipped, and ready to serve the Lord in whatever capacity He calls them to. Ephesians 6 outlines the pieces of spiritual armour necessary for the effective Christian. We last examined the first aspect of this armour: having loins girt about with truth. The next piece of spiritual armour is the breastplate of righteousness (Ephesians 6:14).

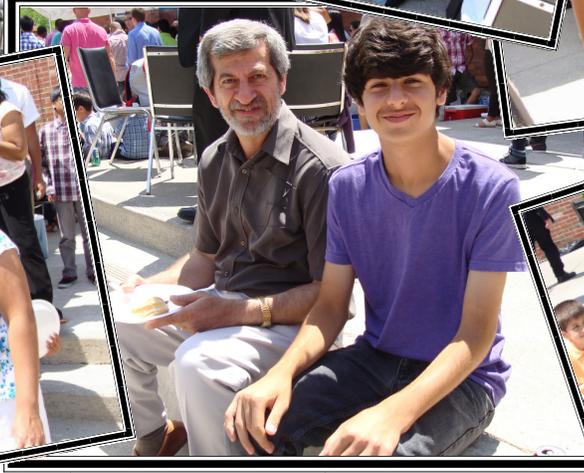
First, let's define the terms. Righteousness refers to morally upright, without sin or guilt; moral perfection. The type of breastplate that Paul is referring to in this passage was worn by a Roman soldier when he ventured into battle. It covered his heart and vital organs.

Spiritually speaking, the breastplate of righteousness is a piece of armour imputed to the Christian at the time of salvation. When a person accepts Christ as Saviour, it is as if Christ takes His breastplate of righteousness and transfers it to that person. All of the heart's sin and guilt—past, present, future—are covered by Christ's righteousness. We see this in 2 Corinthians 5:21: *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin;*

*(Continued on page 6)*



# THE VBC PICTURE



# GALLERY



*(Continued from page 3)*

that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him," as well as in Philippians 3:9: "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." When God the Father looks at the Christian, He sees His Son's righteousness. By Jesus' merits we can have assurance that the forces of evil cannot give us an eternal wound because of this permanent piece of spiritual armour.

It is the prayer of the VBCA staff that all of our students accept Christ as Saviour and receive this breastplate of righteousness, which will assure them of their eternal security through their Saviour.

## *And be Renewed in the Spirit of Your Mind*

**Blair Cassidy**

Ephesians 4:23

**M**any of us are full of ambition; we are motivated in life to do something. We wake up in the morning, and we have goals we want to reach; we have objectives we wish to obtain. We cut the grass, we paint the garage, we spend time with the family, we get together with friends, we go to work, we earn money, we work overtime to make more money, we pay the bills, and we pay the mortgage. Most of us want to make some kind of a difference in the world. We live in this world, and we want to make an impact.

Aside from all the regular activities in life, amongst our daily ambitions and goals, achievements and objectives, there lays within us a desire to make life count, to make a difference. We may venture to say that we wish to do something for God, something maybe even extraordinary for the cause of Christ. We can build a ministry, we can impact hundreds maybe thousands, maybe more. Why we may even be

able to reach untold millions having a ministry through missions that reaches across the globe. We can build; we can organize, administrate, facilitate, govern, and accomplish amazing unthinkable feats for the God we love. We can even leave a legacy; we can leave something behind. We can leave something behind due to our selfless sacrifices. What we choose to forsake will result in a difference - a difference that will resonate for this generation, the next generation, and God willing for many more to come.

Hang on a second...what about – BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND?

Amongst all of the noise and clatter, amongst all this business and busyness we have lost something dear to God, something that transcends the ambitions of men, something that goes beyond goal setting and leaving what we think is a ministry built to last. We have lost the daily need, the daily need to have our minds transformed by God. We must change the way we behave, but in order to change the way we behave we must change the way we think. The dilemma - we cannot change the way we think, at least not the way it needs to be changed, not the way it must be changed, we cannot transform, we cannot renew the spirit of our mind unless we take our confidence and our energy and place it under the control of God's Holy Spirit. We are losing ground!

Days go by, weeks go by, years, decades, and we are still thinking and acting the same way. What are we doing?! How are we spending our time? What is the priority? What is the goal? What is the objective? What are we so excited about? Whatever it is I don't know, but I know we are not being renewed in the spirit of our mind as God says we are to be. There's too much clutter, too much of us, too many goals, too much desire, too much blind determination. There is not enough if barely any of letting God get into our minds and

transform who we are. Our legacy will not be a building or a ministry or a job or a family or a school or a book or a Church or a technique or a movement. We are exhausting a lot of energy but we are not making the impact God wants us to make because we do not allow God to impact us. The answer - BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND!!!

I'm not sure I know of anyone living who allows God to deal with them in this way. I am sure however that David did:

Psalms 71:7, 15 "I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge. My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof." Psalms 119:97-100 "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts."

We all must change who we are by letting God change how we think "and be renewed in the spirit of your mind."

We are doing a great job of letting the world frame our mind and a fearfully dreadful job of letting God do the same. Romans 8:6 "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." I fear, as this verse states, we are dying.

We are doing a lot of things, but what are we doing? Let's make a change in our goals, ambitions, plans, objectives, and let's allow God to change who we are by renewing the spirit of our mind.







**Announcements and Events**

**VAUGHAN BAPTIST  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

The VBCA has now completed its first year. To God be the glory! Enrolment for September has now started with one new student already enrolled. Next year, by the grace of God, we will move into our new facilities next door. Semi-annual mortgage payments continue to be made and any financial gifts to help us would be a true blessing. If you have any questions regarding the VBCA, just contact the church and ask for Administrator Daniel Bousquet. For more information, you can check the VBCA website at:

[www.vaughanbaptistacademy.org](http://www.vaughanbaptistacademy.org)

**Sunday Morning, July 20th**  
Friend Day and BBQ  
(no evening service)

**Sunday Morning, August 24th**  
Friend Day and BBQ  
(no evening service)

**Thursday, August 28th**  
Vaughan Baptist  
Christian Academy  
Back to School Night

**Tuesday, September 2nd**  
First Day of School

**Sunday, September 21st**  
23rd Anniversary Service



**Our Schedule of Services**

**MINISTRIES ON SUNDAY**

Sunday School  
for all ages 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am  
Evening Service 6:00 pm  
*We have fully staffed and supervised nurseries at all services.*

**MINISTRIES ON WEDNESDAY**

Bible Study and  
Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

*We are an Independent Fundamental Baptist Church, located in the heart of Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada. The Church is located 5 minutes north of Metropolitan Toronto and 20 minutes from Toronto Pearson International Airport, and only a 40 minute drive from downtown Toronto.*

**William E. Adams, D.Min.,**  
Senior Pastor  
**James Hird, B.Th.,**  
Youth Pastor

**THE ANCHOR**

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Would you like to share your testimony? Do you have a special story, event, prayer request or any other information you would like to share with your church family?

**Canadian**



**Great Canadian Trivia Questions**

1. What is the origin of the name "Canada"?
2. Who was the first Prime Minister of Canada?
3. What animal is on the Canadian quarter?
4. How many oceans touch Canada?
5. How many countries border Canada?
6. How many provinces in Canada?
7. What is the capital city of Canada?
8. What is the Canadian \$1 coin called?
9. How many territories in Canada?
10. What is the most recent territory in Canada called?
11. What is the name of the elected lower house of Canadian parliament?
12. What is the leader of Canada called?
13. What leaf is on the Canadian flag?
14. What is the Canadian national anthem called?
15. What is the "big prize" for the National Hockey League called?
16. What rodent is described by the Canadian Encyclopedia as having "had a greater impact on the history and exploration of Canada than any other animal or plant species"?
17. What measurement is used in Canada to measure temperature?
18. What are Canada's national languages?
19. Who was the only Canadian ever to serve as Prime Minister of Great Britain?
20. Who was the first French-Canadian Prime Minister of Canada?
21. What is Laura Secord famous for?
22. How many time zones in Canada?
23. What is the name of the highest mountain in Canada?
24. What measurement is used in Canada to measure temperature?

